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IA5TDAVP UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 1 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK 2 3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 4 V. 13 CR 950 (JMF) 5 GARY DAVIS, 6 Defendant. -----x 7 8 New York, N.Y. October 5, 2018 9 3:00 p.m. 10 Before: 11 HON. JESSE M. FURMAN, 12 District Judge 13 14 **APPEARANCES** 15 GEOFFREY S. BERMAN United States Attorney for the 16 Southern District of New York MICHAEL NEFF 17 EUN YOUNG CHOI Assistant United States Attorneys 18 BRAFMAN & ASSOCIATES 19 Attorneys for Defendant MARC AGNIFILO 20 21 ALSO PRESENT: GARY ALFORD, IRS Special Agent 22 23 24 25

(Case called)

MR. NEFF: Good afternoon, your Honor, Michael Neff and Eun Young Choi for the government, joined at counsel table by IRS Special Agent Gary Alford.

THE COURT: Good afternoon.

MR. AGNIFILO: Good afternoon, Judge Furman, Marc Agnifilo, and I'm with my client, Gary Davis, who is present in the courtroom.

THE COURT: Good afternoon to both of you.

I have been advised, Mr. Davis, you wish to change your plea and enter a plea of guilty to a lesser included offense of Count One of the superseding indictment, is that correct?

THE DEFENDANT: That's correct, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Before I accept your guilty plea I need to ask you certain questions to ensure that you are pleading guilty because you are in fact guilty and not for any other reason, to ensure that you understand the rights you would be giving up by pleading guilty, and to ensure that you understanding the consequences of a guilty plea. If there's anything that you do not understand, please let me know so that Mr. Agnifilo or I could explain it to you more fully. And if at any point you would like to speak to Mr. Agnifilo for any reason, just let me know and I will give you however much time wish to speak with him. Do you understand that?

1	THE DEFENDANT: I do, your Honor.
2	THE COURT: Before I proceed any further I will ask my
3	deputy to administer the oath to Mr. Davis.
4	(Defendant sworn)
5	THE COURT: You're now under oath, which means that if
6	you answer any of my questions falsely you may be subject to
7	prosecution for the separate crime of perjury. Do you
8	understand that?
9	THE DEFENDANT: I do, your Honor.
10	THE COURT: What is your full name?
11	THE DEFENDANT: Gary Patrick Davis.
12	THE COURT: How old are you?
13	THE DEFENDANT: 30 years old.
14	THE COURT: How far did you go in school?
15	THE DEFENDANT: Secondary school, which is just before
16	college.
17	THE COURT: Where was that?
18	THE DEFENDANT: Greystone, County of Wicklow, in
19	Ireland.
20	THE COURT: Have you ever been treated or hospitalized
21	for any type of mental illness?
22	THE DEFENDANT: Treated for depression.
23	THE COURT: How recently were you treated and what
24	kind of treatment did you receive?
25	THE DEFENDANT: I believe it was around 2016, and I

was taking fluoxetine, prescribed fluoxetine. 1 2 THE COURT: Is there anything about either your 3 depression or the treatment that you received that would affect 4 your ability to understand what is happening here today? THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor. 5 6 THE COURT: Are you now or have you recently been 7 under the care of a doctor or mental health professional? 8 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor. 9 THE COURT: Have you ever been treated or hospitalized 10 for any type of addiction, including drug or alcohol addiction? THE DEFENDANT: I was treated for cannabis addiction. 11 12 THE COURT: Is there anything about your cannabis 13 addiction or the treatment that you have received that would 14 affect your ability to understand what is happening here today? 15 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor. 16 THE COURT: In the last 48 hours have you taken any 17 medicine, pills, drugs or had any alcohol? 18 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor. 19 THE COURT: Is your mind clear today? 20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 21 THE COURT: Do you understand what is happening here 22 today? 23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do. 24 THE COURT: Mr. Agnifilo, I assume you discussed this 25 matter with Mr. Davis?

1	MR. AGNIFILO: Yes, very much so, Judge.
2	THE COURT: And in your judgment does he understand
3	the rights that he would be giving up by pleading guilty?
4	MR. AGNIFILO: He does, indeed.
5	THE COURT: In your judgment is he capable of
6	understanding the nature of today's proceedings?
7	MR. AGNIFILO: He does.
8	THE COURT: Do either counsel have my doubt as to the
9	defendant's competence to plead guilty at this time?
10	MR. AGNIFILO: I believe he's competent to do so.
11	MR. NEFF: No doubt, your Honor.
12	THE COURT: On the basis of Mr. Davis' responses to my
13	questions, my observations of his demeanor here in court and
14	the representations of counsel, I find that he is fully
15	competent to enter an informed plea of guilty at this time.
16	Mr. Davis, have you received a copy of the superseding
17	indictment, S1 13 Crim. 950, charging you with conspiracy to
18	violate the narcotics laws and other offenses?
19	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
20	THE COURT: And have you had enough time to review the
21	charge to which you intend to plead guilty and any possible
22	defenses to that charge with your lawyers?
23	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have.
24	THE COURT: Have your lawyers explained to you the

consequences of entering a guilty plea?

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1	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, they have.
2	THE COURT: And are you satisfied with their
3	representation of you?
4	THE DEFENDANT: I am.
5	THE COURT: Now I have here a written advice of rights
6	form that you appear to have signed, dated today, October 5th,
7	2018. I will mark this as Court Exhibit 1 and provide it to
8	the government to retain this its possession after this
9	proceeding.
10	Turning to page 2 of the form, is that your signature
11	appearing there on page 2?
12	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, it is.
13	THE COURT: Before you signed that form, did you read
14	it?
15	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I did.
16	THE COURT: Before you signed it, did you discuss it
17	with Mr. Agnifilo?
18	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I did.
19	THE COURT: And did he explain it to you and answer
20	any questions that you may have had about the form before you
21	signed it?
22	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
23	THE COURT: I'm going go over many of the same things
24	that are on that form with you to ensure that you understand

what you are doing and the consequences of what you are doing.

If there's anything you don't understand, please let me know. 1 2 Under the Constitution and laws of the United States, 3 you have a right to plead not quilty to the charges in the 4 superseding indictment. Do you understand that? 5 THE DEFENDANT: I do. 6 THE COURT: If you did plead not quilty you would be 7 entitled to a speedy and public trial by a jury on those charges. Do you understand that? 8 9 THE DEFENDANT: T do. 10 THE COURT: At that trial you would be presumed to be 11 innocent and you would not have to prove that you were 12 innocent. Instead, the government would be required to prove 13 your quilt by competent evidence beyond a reasonable doubt 14 before a jury could find you guilty. Do you understand that? 15 THE DEFENDANT: I do, your Honor. THE COURT: In order to find you quilty, a jury of 16 17 twelve people would have to agree unanimously that you were 18 quilty. Do you understand that? 19 THE DEFENDANT: T do. 20 THE COURT: At that trial and at every stage of your 21 case you would be entitled to the assistance of a lawyer, and 22 if you could not afford a lawyer, one would be appointed at 23

public expense free of cost to represent you. Do you understand that?

> THE DEFENDANT: I do.

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THE COURT: During a trial the witnesses for the government would have to come to court and testify in your presence, and your lawyer would have an opportunity to cross-examine those witnesses and object to any evidence offered against you by the government. You would also have an opportunity to introduce evidence on your own behalf, and you would have the right to have subpoenas issued or other process used to compel witnesses to come to court and testify in your defense. Do you understand all that?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: At the trial you would also have the right to testify on your own behalf, but you would have the right not to testify as well, and if you chose not to testify then no one, including the jury, could draw any inference or suggestion of guilt from the fact that you did not testify. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: Before trial you would have the right to obtain certain evidence and materials from the government, if you have not already received them, and you would have an opportunity and right to move to exclude or suppress that evidence and prevent the government from using it against you. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: If you were convicted at a trial you would

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have the right to appeal that verdict and any pretrial rulings that I made in connection with your case. Do you understand that?

> THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: If you plead guilty you will also have to give up your right not to incriminate yourself because I may ask you questions about what you did in order to satisfy myself that you are guilty as charged, and you will have to admit and acknowledge your guilt. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: If you plead quilty, and if I accept your quilty plea, you will give up your right to a trial and the other rights that we have just discussed, other than your right to a lawyer, which you keep whether or not you plead guilty. But there will be no appeal with respect to whether you did or did not commit the offense to which you're pleading quilty or with respect to whether the government could use the evidence that it has against you. And I would enter a judgment of quilty and sentence you on the basis of your plea after I have considered any presentence report and whatever submissions I get from your lawyer and the lawyers from the government. There would be no trial, and as I said, there would be no appeal on the matters that I mentioned a moment ago.

Do you understand all that?

I do, your Honor. THE DEFENDANT:

THE COURT: Even now as you are entering this plea you have the right to change your mind, to plead not guilty and to go to trial on the charges in the superseding indictment. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: Do you understand each and every one of the rights that I have just explained to you?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: And are you willing to give you up your right to a trial and the other rights that we have discussed?

THE DEFENDANT: I am.

THE COURT: Do you understand that you are charged in Count One of the indictment with participating in a conspiracy to distribute or possess with the intent to distribute various controlled substances, including but not limited to one kilogram and more of mixtures and substances containing a detectable amount of heroin, and that is in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.

Do you understand that that is the charge in the indictment itself?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: Do you understand that the government has agreed to accept a guilty plea to a lesser included offense, namely conspiracy to distribute or possess with the intent to distribute lesser quantities or unidentified quantities of

various controlled substances, including heroin, but that's in violation of the same provision. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Judge.

THE COURT: Mr. Neff, would you please state the elements of the offense to which Mr. Davis is pleading guilty?

MR. NEFF: Yes, your Honor. To prove the defendant guilty of the lesser included offense to which the defendant is pleading, the government would have to prove two elements beyond a reasonable doubt: First, there existed an agreement between two or more people to distribute some amount of narcotics, as charged here, heroin, cocaine, LSD and methamphetamine; and second, the defendant personally joined that conspiracy understanding the illegal objective, in other words, understanding that it was about distributing these drugs.

In addition to those two elements, the government would also need to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that venue is appropriate here in the Southern District of New York.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Mr. Davis, do you understand that if you were to go to trial the government would have to prove each of those first two elements beyond a reasonable doubt, and that venue is proper here by a preponderance of the evidence, before a jury could find you guilty?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: Let me tell you now about the maximum possible penalties for this crime. By "this crime" I mean the lesser included offense to which you're pleading guilty, and by "maximum" I mean the most that could possibly be imposed upon you. It doesn't mean that that is the sentence you will receive, but you do have to understand that by pleading guilty you are exposing yourself to a combination of punishments up to the statutory maximums. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: First let me tell you about the possible restrictions on your liberty. The maximum term of imprisonment for this crime is 20 years, which could be followed by up to a lifetime term of supervised release. "Supervised release" means that you would be subject to supervision by the probation department, there would be rules of supervised release that you would be required to follow, and if you violated those rules you could be returned to prison to serve additional time without a jury trial and without credit for the time spent on your underlying sentence or time spent on post-release supervision. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: You should understand that there is no parole in the federal system, which means that if you were sentenced to prison you would not be released early on parole.

There is an opportunity to earn credit for good behavior, but if you were sentenced to prison you would have to serve at least 85 percent of the time to which you were sentenced. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

liberty, the maximum possible punishments also includes certain financial penalties: First, the maximum allowable fine is the greatest of one million dollars, twice the gross pecuniary or financial gain derived from the offense or twice the gross pecuniary or financial loss to someone than you as a result of the offense; second, I can order restitution to any person or entity injured as a result of your criminal conduct; third, I can order you to forfeit all property derived from the offense or used to facilitate the offense. And on that score, I note that in the plea agreement we will discuss shortly you admit to forfeiture allegation with respect to Count One of the indictment. And finally, I must order a mandatory special assessment of \$100.

Do you understand that those are the maximum possible penalties?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: In addition to understanding those maximum penalties, you should understand that there is a mandatory minimum of three years of supervised release. That means that

absent a motion by the government, I would be required to impose at least a three-year term of supervised release following any term of imprisonment. Do you understand that that is the mandatory minimum that applies here?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: Are you a citizen of the United States, Mr. Davis?

THE DEFENDANT: I'm not.

THE COURT: Do you understand that as a result of your guilty plea there may be adverse affects on your immigration status in this country? For example, you may be detained by the immigration authorities following the completion of any criminal sentence, you may be denied admission to the United States in the future, you may be denied citizenship in the United States, and you may be removed or deported from the United States.

Do you understand those are among the negative immigration consequences of a guilty plea? Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: Have you discussed the immigration consequences of a guilty plea with your lawyers?

THE DEFENDANT: I have.

THE COURT: Do you understand that as a result of a guilty plea you may also lose certain valuable civil rights in

this country, to the extent that you have them or could otherwise obtain them now, such as the right to vote, the right to hold public office, the right to serve on a jury and the right to possess any kind of firearm?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: Are you serving any other sentence or being prosecuted in any other court at this time?

THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you understand that if your lawyers or anyone has attempted to predict for you what your sentence will be in this matter that their predictions could be wrong?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: You should understand that no one, not your lawyers, not the lawyers from the government, no one can give you any promise or assurance as to what your sentence will be in this matter because your sentence will be determined by me and by me alone. I will not do that today. Instead, I will wait until I receive the presentence report prepared by the probation department, I will do my own calculation of how the United States Sentencing Guidelines apply to your case, I will consider any applicable departures from the guidelines range, I will consider the submissions by the lawyers, and I will consider the factors set forth in a statute that governs sentencing, Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a), and I will do all that before determining and imposing an

appropriate sentence. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Have you discussed the sentencing process with your lawyers?

THE DEFENDANT: I have.

THE COURT: Even if your sentence is different from what your lawyers or anyone else has told you that it might be, even if it is different from what you expect or hope it to be, and even if it is different from what may be in the plea agreement we will discuss in one moment, you will still be bound by your plea and you will not be allowed to withdraw your plea. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: Now I understand that there is a written plea agreement between you and the lawyers for the government as well as your lawyer, is that correct?

THE DEFENDANT: That's right.

THE COURT: I have the original letter plea agreement here dated September 20, 2018, from Assistant U.S. Attorneys Choi and Neff to your lawyers, Mr. Klein, Mr. Agnifilo and Mr. Kaplan. I will mark this as Court Exhibit 2 and provide it to the government to retain in its possession after this proceeding as well.

Turning to the last page of the plea agreement, you appear to have signed this document dated today as well, and

I'm showing that to you. Is that your signature on the last 1 2 page? 3 THE DEFENDANT: It is. 4 THE COURT: Before you signed the plea agreement, did 5 you read it? 6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I did. 7 THE COURT: And before you signed it did you discuss it with your lawyer? 8 9 THE DEFENDANT: I did. 10 THE COURT: Before you signed it did your lawyers 11 explain it to you and answer any questions that you may have 12 had about it? 13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, they did. 14 THE COURT: Before you signed it, did you fully 15 understand it? 16 THE DEFENDANT: I did. 17 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Neff, I see there's a 18 footnote at the end of the plea agreement indicating that the agreement reflects special facts of this case is not intended 19 20 as precedent for other cases. Can you just advise me so I 21 don't miss something what differences there are from sort of 22 the standard plea agreement in this district? 23 MR. NEFF: Certainly, your Honor. May I have one 24 moment? 25 THE COURT: Yes.

MR. NEFF: Thank you.

2 (Pause)

MR. NEFF: Thank you, Judge.

Two things. First, the government's offer of a lesser included (b)(1)(C) plea offer, notwithstanding the fact that certain other defendants in the broader conspiracy were convicted of the (b)(1)(A) quantities; and second, it reflects the fact that the defendant was extradited from Ireland.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

Mr. Davis, one of the features of your plea agreement is that you and the government have agreed upon how the United States Sentencing Guidelines apply to your case, is that correct?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: You should understand that that agreement is binding on you and it is binding on the government but it is not binding on me. I have my own independent obligation to determine the correct guidelines range. I'm not suggesting to you that I will come up with a different calculation than the one to which you have agreed, but I could, and even if I did, you would still be bound by your guilty plea and you would not be allowed to withdraw your plea. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: In addition, your plea agreement includes a waiver of appeal, that is, you waive or give up your right to

appeal or otherwise challenge any sentence that is within or below the stipulated sentencing guidelines range of 235 to 240 months in prison. That means that if I sentence you to 240 months imprisonment, which is the statutory maximum, or anything less than that, you would not have any right to appeal or otherwise challenge that sentence. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: Does this written plea agreement

THE COURT: Does this written plea agreement constitute your complete and total understanding of the entire agreement between you and the government in this case?

THE DEFENDANT: It does, your Honor.

THE COURT: Has anything been left out of the written plea agreement?

THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Other than what is written in the agreement, has anyone made any promise to you or offered you any inducement either to plead guilty or to sign the plea agreement?

THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Has anyone threatened you or forced you to plead guilty or to sign the plea agreement?

THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Has anyone made a promise to you as to what your sentence will be in this matter?

THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Davis, I would like you now to tell me in your own words what you did that makes you believe you are guilty to crime to which you are pleading.

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor. I have a prepared statement, if I could read this.

THE COURT: Yes, as long as you read slowly and clearly into the microphone, please.

THE DEFENDANT: Thank you. Between January of 2011 and October 2013 I was associated with a website called the Silk Road. My job with the Silk Road consisted primarily of helping the site run smoothly and without problems. I would provide customer support to users of the site having problems accessing their accounts or if they had issues with their funds being credited.

I knew that the Silk Road facilitated the buying and selling of illegal drugs, including heroin, cocaine, LSD, and methamphetamines. Additionally, I knew that by helping people navigate the Silk Road site and by helping the site run smoothly I was assisting in the distribution of these illegal substances, and that I agreed with others to do so.

While I was not in the United States while I engaged in this activity, I knew that these illegal substances were being distributed throughout the United States, including within the Southern District of New York. I knew and admit that my actions violated the drug laws of the United States. I

plead guilty to the crime of conspiracy to distribute these illegal substances because I'm guilty of this crime.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

Mr. Agnifilo, do you know of any valid defense that would prevail at trial or any reason that Mr. Davis should not be permitted to plead guilty to the lesser included offense?

MR. AGNIFILO: I do not, your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Neff, are there any additional questions that you would like me to ask of Mr. Davis?

MR. NEFF: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Would you please proffer briefly what the government's evidence would be and what it would show if the defendant were to go to trial.

MR. NEFF: Yes, your Honor. If this matter proceeded to trial the government's evidence would include, among other things, exhibits introduced at the trial of Ross Ulbricht, testimony from witnesses, seizures of drugs that had been purchased on Silk Road, controlled buys of narcotics over Silk Road. And on that front, I would note that some of these controlled buys or undercover purchases were ordered from and delivered to the Southern District of New York.

Our evidence would also include Silk Road servers, including the servers for the Silk Road marketplace, forum, and the Bitcoin server. The evidence would also include pertinent materials from Ross Ulbricht's laptop, which includes chats,

his journal and materials identifying his employees, including Mr. Davis' passport.

The evidence would also include electronic search warrant returns showing that aliases used on Silk Road belonged to this defendant. And finally, the evidence would include this defendant's statements at a proffer session conducted pursuant to a safety valve proffer agreement.

THE COURT: All right. And forgive me for one moment, is there a safety valve provision in the plea agreement?

MR. NEFF: There is not, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Then I didn't overlook it.

All right. Do both counsel agree there is a sufficient factual basis for a guilty plea to the lesser included offense?

MR. NEFF: Yes, your Honor.

MR. AGNIFILO: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: And does either counsel know of any reason that I should not accept the defendant's plea of guilty?

MR. NEFF: No, your Honor.

MR. AGNIFILO: I know of no such reason.

THE COURT: Mr. Davis, because you acknowledge that you are in fact guilty as charged, or at least with respect to the lesser included offense of Count One of the superseding indictment, because I am satisfied that you know of your rights, including your right to go to trial, that you are aware

of the potential consequences of your plea, including the sentence that could be imposed upon you, and because I find that you are knowingly and voluntarily pleading guilty, I accept your guilty plea and enter a judgment of guilty on the lesser included offense to Count One.

The probation department will want to interview you in connection with its preparation of the presentence report that I mentioned earlier. If you choose to speak with the probation department, it is important that anything you say is truthful and accurate. Among other things, that report is very important to me in deciding what sentence to impose upon you.

Before sentencing, you and your lawyers will have an opportunity to review the report. I would urge you to review it with care, and if you find any mistakes in the report or anything that you wish to bring to my attention in connection with sentencing that you share that with your lawyers so that they can bring it to my attention in the appropriate manner.

Do you understand all that?

THE DEFENDANT: I do. Thank you, your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Agnifilo, do you wish to be present for any interview by probation?

MR. AGNIFILO: Yes. Thank you, Judge.

THE COURT: I order no interview take place unless counsel is present.

Sentencing will be set for January 17, 2019 at 3:30 in

the afternoon. I direct the government to provide its factual statement of the offense to probation within seven days.

Defense counsel must arrange for the defendant to be interviewed by the probation department within the next two weeks.

In accordance with my individual rules and practices, any defense submissions for sentencing are due two weeks prior to the sentencing date, the government's submissions are due one week prior to the sentencing date. I am guessing that you will each submit substantive sentencing submissions here, but in the unlikely event that you don't, you should at least file a letter to that effect so that we know that we didn't overlook something.

Anything else?

MR. NEFF: No, your Honor, thank you.

MR. AGNIFILO: Nothing from the defense. Thank you, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. In that case, we are adjourned. I wish everybody a pleasant weekend.

MR. NEFF: Thank you, your Honor, you too.

MR. AGNIFILO: Thank you.

(Adjourned)